

B Sub
C1

1. (Amended) A water based ink composition for a ballpoint pen which comprises [an alkali-swelling associative] a thickener which swells in an alkaline medium, said thickener comprising a polymer having a carboxyl group and a hydrophobic group, a pigment, a polar solvent [containing] comprising water and other solvents and a pH controlling agent.

2. (Amended) The water based ink composition for a ballpoint pen as described in claim 1, wherein the [alkali-swelling associative] thickener is contained in a proportion of 0.1 to 8% by weight [(polymer component)] based on the ink composition and dissolves and swells [in an alkaline area] in the polar solvent [containing water] to associate with the particle surface of the pigment, thereby increasing the ink viscosity. in an alkaline medium

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-4 are pending. Claims 1 and 2 are amended to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter is added by these amendments.